

## EM SSAB Chairs Conference Call

August 11, 2015

### Participants

#### *Board*

Hanford

Idaho

Nevada

Northern New Mexico

Oak Ridge

Paducah

Portsmouth

Savannah River

#### *Chairs/Representatives*

Steve Hudson, Susan Leckband

Herb Bohrer

Donna Hruska, Janice  
Keiserman

Doug Sayre

David Hemelright

Ben Peterson

Will Henderson

Harold Simon

#### *Site Staff*

Kristen Skopeck, Sharon Braswell,  
Joni Grindstaff

Melvin "Keith" Branter

Kelly Snyder, Barbara Ulmer

Menice Santistevan

Pete Osborne, Spencer Gross,  
Eric Roberts

de'Lisa Carrico

### DOE-HQ Representatives

EM-60

Connie Flohr, Bart Barnhart

EM-3.1

Paivi Nettamo

EM-3.2

Dave Borak, Elizabeth Schmitt, Michelle Hudson, Alexandra Gilliland,  
Allison Finelli, Jared Bierbach

### Opening Remarks

Mr. Dave Borak, Designated Federal Officer for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), called the meeting to order and introduced new staff.

### Budget Update

Ms. Connie Flohr, Associate Deputy Assistant for Program Planning and Budget, discussed changes that have occurred since the last budget update given at the previous chairs meeting in Augusta in April. Mr. Bart Barnhart, the new Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget, introduced himself.

Ms. Flohr noted that the Senate markup of the EM FY 2016 Budget Request gave the program \$6.038 billion and the House markup gave the program \$5.909 billion, the first time since 2008 that both chambers marked above the requested budget level. EM is planning on EM operating under a continuing resolution (CR) as we move into FY 2016. EM has been working with the sites and analyzing carryover balances to make sure carryover funds are best positioned going forward into the CR.

Ms. Flohr noted that the House mark-up included plus-ups for Richland, Portsmouth, Carlsbad, Oak Ridge, Idaho, Paducah, and closure sites; and reductions for the Office of River Protection, Savannah River, and Los Alamos. The Senate markup included plus-ups for Oak Ridge, Richland, Paducah, and Lawrence Berkley Laboratory.

Ms. Flohr then discussed a brief overview of the timeline for submittal of the FY 2017 budget request, noting that DOE is in the midst of internal deliberations on its development.

Mr. Herb Bohrer Chair of the Idaho CAB, remarked that the time available for the Idaho CAB to engage with the field managers was compressed and did not maximize the CAB's full involvement in the budget process. He asked if the site managers could provide specific schedules that would allow for longer lead times for the CAB to be involved in the budget process. Ms. Flohr responded that there is no need for the sites to delay discussions on budget priorities with the EM SSABs. Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney sent a letter to field managers last February directing them to engage stakeholders on their priorities early in the process. It is possible to discuss the priorities of the site without attaching dollar values to them. There is no reason why in February or March the site managers can't start meeting with the EM SSABs and start gathering the boards' input on what is important to them.

Mr. Will Henderson, Chair of the Portsmouth SSAB, asked about the uranium barter situation, and reducing Portsmouth's dependence on the barter program. The secretarial determination that came out that reduced the amount of uranium that the site can barter. He asked if there are any plans for the amount requested in the budget to offset the amount Portsmouth is going to lose as a result of that determination.

Ms. Flohr responded that EM is aware of this issue and is factoring in that uranium reduction into our planning efforts for our out years. Specifically, EM is assuming a need for additional funding to counter the need amount lost from the reduced barter.

Mr. Ben Peterson, Chair of the Paducah SSAB, asked for information on Mission Support budget line item. Ms. Flohr explained that there is a program that Uranium Thorium claimant for companies that have contributed to the EM effort over time. These companies have had to clean up their facilities that were contaminated by whatever work they did for EM, and under law are entitled to reimbursement for those cleanup activities. There is a backlog there of about \$50M for these claims. The increased budget for this line item is designed to reduce the backlog of claims.

Mr. Doug Sayre, Chair of the Northern New Mexico CAB, noted that the budget for Los Alamos National Laboratory has been cut from FY 2015 levels. Ms. Flohr noted that the apparent reduction can be explained by the fact that EM is standing up a new office in Los Alamos and funding is being split. EM is currently figuring out the correct baseline levels and regulatory structure.

### **Chairs' Meeting Update**

Mr. Borak confirmed that the next EM SSAB Chairs Meeting would be held on September 1-3, 2015, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and thanked the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory

Board (NNMCAB) for hosting the event. He then reviewed the tentative agenda and asked for feedback from the participants. Ms. Menice Santistevan, staff for the NNMCAB discussed the logistics of the tour on September 1, noting that an agenda for the tour will be available soon.

## **Recommendations**

Mr. Borak discussed the draft recommendation developed by the NNMCAB regarding Supplemental Environmental Projects that was originally presented to the Chairs at their spring meeting in Augusta, Georgia. Changes have since been made to make the recommendation less specific to the Los Alamos site. The Chairs will have the opportunity to discuss the recommendation further and deliberate on its content at the upcoming meeting in Santa Fe. Ms. Tania Smith, Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration, will be in attendance to answer any technical questions the members may have.

Mr. Borak then asked what the status of the local board votes were for passage of the draft WIPP recommendation the resulted from the Chairs' spring meeting. The recommendation was passed by the boards at Savannah River, Oak Ridge, Northern New Mexico, Idaho, Hanford and Paducah. A vote was still pending at Portsmouth. Nevada did not pass the recommendation.

## **Feedback on the Waste Disposition Maps:**

Mr. Borak began discussion on the Waste Disposition Maps. He reminded everyone Mr. Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management's, presentation in which he had a map of Idaho that overviewed the waste that came into Idaho, the waste that was in Idaho, and the waste that was coming out of Idaho. The idea was that EM and its communications office would create maps like that for all of our sites to give an overview of the waste program in a more visual manner. Paivi Nettamo from the EM Office of Communications has the lead on this activity. Mr. Borak requested feedback from the local boards regarding the maps and turned it over to Ms. Nettamo.

Several respondents noted positively that they liked the maps and wanted to make sure that they stayed simple enough for public use. A request for adding metrics of waste was suggested.

Ms. Nettamo explained that Mr. Marcinowski is hoping to update these and have them available at the next chair's meeting. She went on to say that only the Idaho map exists as their prototype. And that they wanted to make sure there were hitting requests and goals before they put time and effort into creating maps for the other sites.

She asked if there was concurrence from the group to go ahead and start developing more maps and have one or two more available at the next meeting. The group responded in the affirmative.

## **Other Business**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM EST.